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PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10012383-1IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Thane M. Larson et al.

Confirmation No.:

Application No.: 09/924,163

Examiner: Tim T. Vo

Filing Date: August 7, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2112

Title: DEDICATED SERVER MANAGEMENT CARD WITH HOT SWAP FUNCTIONALITY

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEFTransmitted herewith is the Appeal Brief in this application with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on January 24, 2006.

The fee for filing this Appeal Brief is (37 CFR 1.17(c)) \$500.00.

(complete (a) or (b) as applicable)

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) apply.

☐ (a) Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 (fees: 37 CFR 1.17(a)-(d)) for the total number of months checked below:☐ 1st Month
\$120☐ 2nd Month
\$450☐ 3rd Month
\$1020☐ 4th Month
\$1590☐ The extension fee has already been filed in this application.☒ (b) Applicant believes that no extension of time is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

Please charge to Deposit Account 08-2025 the sum of \$ 500 . At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.26. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

Thane M. Larson et al.

By: Jeff A. Holmen

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Rev 10/05 (Ap/Brief)

MAR 09 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicant: Thane M. Larson et al. Examiner: Tim T. Vo
Serial No.: 09/924,163 Group Art Unit: 2112
Filed: August 7, 2001 Docket No.: 10012383-1 (H300.167.101)
Due Date: March 24, 2006
Title: DEDICATED SERVER MANAGEMENT CARD WITH HOT SWAP
FUNCTIONALITY

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. §41.37

Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

This Appeal Brief is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed on January 24, 2006, appealing the final rejection of claims 1-20 of the above-identified application as set forth in the Final Office Action mailed October 25, 2005.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025 in the amount of \$500.00 for filing a Brief in Support of an Appeal as set forth under 37 C.F.R. §41.20(b)(2). At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Appellant respectfully requests consideration and reversal of the Examiner's rejection of pending claims 1-20.

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REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, LP having a principal place of business at 20555 S.H. 249 Houston, TX 77070, U.S.A. (hereinafter "HPDC"). HPDC is a Texas limited partnership and is a wholly-owned affiliate of Hewlett-Packard Company, a Delaware corporation, headquartered in Palo Alto, CA. The general or managing partner of HPDC is HPQ Holdings, LLC.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other appeals or interferences known to Appellant that will have a bearing on the Board's decision in the present Appeal.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In a Final Office Action mailed October 25, 2005, claims 1-20 were finally rejected. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application, and are the subject of the present Appeal.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments have been entered subsequent to the Final Office Action mailed October 25, 2005. A Response After Final was filed on November 21, 2005, but no amendments to the claims were proposed by Appellants or entered by the Examiner.

SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The Summary is set forth as an exemplary embodiment as the language corresponding to independent claims 1, 8, and 14. Discussions about elements of claims 1, 8, and 14 can be found at least at the cited locations in the specification and drawings.

The present invention, as claimed in independent claim 1, provides a server system. The server system includes a plurality of printed circuit assemblies including a plurality of host processor cards. The server system includes a management card coupled to the plurality of printed circuit assemblies. The management card is dedicated to monitoring and managing operation of the server system, including monitoring and managing on-line insertion and removal of the printed circuit assemblies. The management card includes a LAN switch

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configured to be coupled to the plurality of host processor cards and an external management network. (See, e.g., specification at page 3, line 7 to page 6, line 2; page 7, line 4 to page 18, line 6; Figures 1-3 and 5; reference numbers 100, 300A-300E, 320, and 532).

The present invention, as claimed in independent claim 8, provides a method of managing a server system. The method includes providing a plurality of host processor cards for running customer operating systems and applications. The method includes providing a dedicated management card that does not run customer operating systems and applications, the dedicated management card coupled to the plurality of host processor cards via a LAN switch on the management card. The method includes monitoring and managing operation of the plurality of host processor cards with the dedicated management card, including monitoring and managing hot swapping of the host processor cards. The method includes communicating with an external management network via the LAN switch. (See, e.g., specification at page 3, line 7 to page 6, line 2; page 7, line 4 to page 18, line 6; Figures 1-3 and 5; reference numbers 100, 300A, 300E, 320, and 532).

The present invention, as claimed in independent claim 14, provides a management-dedicated server management card for a server system having a plurality of removable cards. The server management card includes a memory for storing server management software. The server management card includes a controller coupled to the plurality of removable cards for monitoring and managing operation of the server system based on the server management software. The controller provides hot-swap functionality for the plurality of removable cards. The server management card includes a multiple-port LAN switch having at least four ports. The LAN switch is coupled to the controller and is configured to be coupled to a management connection of at least one of the plurality of removable cards. (See, e.g., specification at page 3, line 7 to page 6, line 2; page 7, line 4 to page 18, line 6; Figures 1-3 and 5; reference numbers 100, 300A-300E, 500, 504, and 532).

GROUND'S OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

- I. Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wong, U.S. Patent No. 6,528,904 ("Wong").
- II. Claims 5, 11, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong in view of Bassman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,295,567 ("Bassman").

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ARGUMENT**I. The Applicable Law**

"A claim is anticipated if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single, prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co., of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

The Examiner has the burden under 35 U.S.C. §103 to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Three criteria must be satisfied to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. First, the Examiner must show that some objective teaching in the prior art or some knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art would teach, suggest, or motivate one to modify a reference or to combine the teachings of multiple references. *Id.* Second, the prior art can be modified or combined only so long as there is a reasonable expectation of success. *In re Merck & Co., Inc.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Third, the prior art reference or combined prior art references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). These three criteria are also set forth in §706.02(j) of the M.P.E.P.

II. Rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wong

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wong, U.S. Patent No. 6,528,904 ("Wong"). Actually, the inclusion of claims 5, 11, and 17 in the 102(e) rejection appears to be a typographical error, since the Examiner never addressed these claims in the 102(e) rejection. Thus, Applicant's remarks with respect to the 102(e) rejection are directed to claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-16, and 18-20. Appellants respectfully submit that Wong does not teach or suggest the invention of independent claims 1, 8, and 14 and the claims depending therefrom.

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A. Rejection of claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wong

Independent claim 1 recites "wherein the management card includes a LAN switch configured to be coupled to the plurality of host processor cards and an external management network."

With respect to the independent claims, the Examiner stated that:

As for claims 1, 8, and 14, Wong teaches a server system . . . wherein the management card includes a LAN switch configured to be coupled to the plurality of host processor cards and an external management network (see figure 1, SERVER MGNT BLADE 10, 12 and column 5 lines 18-32 and column 2 lines 43, wherein the server management includes a mux 22 to control the switch blade 14 for providing network switching of packets and routing for various protocol layers, thus column 5 lines 18-32 teaches a mux in the SERVER MGNT BLADE 10, 12 to control SMBUS/LAN as shown in figure 1). (Final Office Action at para. no. 2, pages 2-3).

Thus, the Examiner appeared to argue above that the MUX 22 disclosed in Wong corresponds to the LAN switch recited in the claims. MUX 22 is a multiplexer, not a LAN switch. A multiplexer is configured differently, and operates in a different manner than a LAN switch. There is also no teaching or suggestion in Wong that the MUX 22 could or should be replaced by a LAN switch.

Wong also discloses switch blades 14, which "provide network switching of packets and routing for various protocol layers . . ." (Wong at col. 2, lines 36-38). However, switch blades 14 are separate and distinct from the server management blades 10 and 12. There is no teaching or suggestion in Wong that the switch blades 10 and 12 could or should be incorporated into the server management blades 10 and 12.

The Examiner also appeared to argue in the above block quote that the SMBUS/LAN 25 is an external management network as recited in the claims. Appellants respectfully disagree. The elements shown in Figure 1, including the SMBUS/LAN 25, are part of a single server with hot swappable blades. (See, e.g., Wong at col. 2, lines 18-22). The SMBUS/LAN 25 is an internal bus of the server, not an external management network. Wong does not teach or suggest that multiplexer 22 could or should be coupled to an external management network.

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Wong does not teach or suggest a management card that includes a LAN switch configured to be coupled to a plurality of host processor cards and an external management network, as recited in independent claim 1.

In view of the above, independent claim 1 is not taught or suggested by Wong. Appellants submit that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Wong, and respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2, 3, 4, and 6, which further limit patentably distinct claim 1, are also believed to be allowable over the cited reference. Appellants submit that dependent claims 2, 3, 4, and 6 are not anticipated by Wong, and respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claims 2, 3, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

B. Rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wong

Dependent claim 7 recites "wherein the management card further comprises: a plurality of serial ports for communicating with the management card." Wong discloses that the server includes an RS232 port (Figure 1), but Wong does not teach or suggest that the server management blade 10 includes a plurality of serial ports.

Dependent claim 7, which further limits patentably distinct claim 1, and is further distinguishable over the cited reference, is believed to be allowable over the cited reference. Appellants submit that dependent claim 7 is not anticipated by Wong, and respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

C. Rejection of claims 8-10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wong

Independent claim 8 recites "the dedicated management card coupled to the plurality of host processor cards via a LAN switch on the management card" and "communicating with an external management network via the LAN switch."

With respect to the independent claims, the Examiner stated that:

As for claims 1, 8, and 14, Wong teaches a server system . . . wherein the management card includes a LAN switch configured to be coupled to the plurality of host processor cards and an external management network (see figure 1, SERVER MGNT BLADE 10, 12 and column 5 lines 18-32 and column 2 lines 43, wherein the server management includes a mux 22 to

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control the switch blade 14 for providing network switching of packets and routing for various protocol layers, thus column 5 lines 18-32 teaches a mux in the SERVER MGNT BLADE 10, 12 to control SMBUS/LAN as shown in figure 1). (Final Office Action at para. no. 2, pages 2-3).

Thus, the Examiner appeared to argue above that the MUX 22 disclosed in Wong corresponds to the LAN switch recited in the claims. MUX 22 is a multiplexer, not a LAN switch. A multiplexer is configured differently, and operates in a different manner than a LAN switch. There is also no teaching or suggestion in Wong that the MUX 22 could or should be replaced by a LAN switch.

Wong also discloses switch blades 14, which "provide network switching of packets and routing for various protocol layers" (Wong at col. 2, lines 36-38). However, switch blades 14 are separate and distinct from the server management blades 10 and 12. There is no teaching or suggestion in Wong that the switch blades 10 and 12 could or should be incorporated into the server management blades 10 and 12.

The Examiner also appeared to argue in the above block quote that the SMBUS/LAN 25 is an external management network as recited in the claims. Appellants respectfully disagree. The elements shown in Figure 1, including the SMBUS/LAN 25, are part of a single server with hot swappable blades. (See, e.g., Wong at col. 2, lines 18-22). The SMBUS/LAN 25 is an internal bus of the server, not an external management network. Wong does not teach or suggest that multiplexer 22 could or should be coupled to an external management network.

Wong does not teach or suggest a dedicated management card coupled to a plurality of host processor cards via a LAN switch on the management card, nor does Wong teach or suggest communicating with an external management network via a LAN switch on a management card, as recited in independent claim 8.

In view of the above, independent claim 8 is not taught or suggested by Wong. Appellants submit that independent claim 8 is not anticipated by Wong, and respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 9, 10, and 12, which further limit patentably distinct claim 8, are also believed to be allowable over the cited reference. Appellants submit that dependent claims 9, 10, and 12 are not anticipated by Wong, and respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claims 9, 10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

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D. Rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wong

Dependent claim 13 recites "communicating with the management card via at least one of a plurality of serial ports on the management card." Wong discloses that the server includes an RS232 port (Figure 1), but Wong does not teach or suggest that the server management blade 10 includes a plurality of serial ports.

Dependent claim 13, which further limits patentably distinct claim 8, and is further distinguishable over the cited reference, is believed to be allowable over the cited reference. Appellants submit that dependent claim 13 is not anticipated by Wong, and respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

E. Rejection of claims 14-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wong

Independent claim 14 is directed to a management-dedicated server management card, and recites "a multiple-port LAN switch having at least four ports, the LAN switch coupled to the controller and configured to be coupled to a management connection of at least one of the plurality of removable cards."

With respect to the independent claims, the Examiner stated that:

As for claims 1, 8, and 14, Wong teaches a server system . . . wherein the management card includes a LAN switch configured to be coupled to the plurality of host processor cards and an external management network (see figure 1, SERVER MGNT BLADE 10, 12 and column 5 lines 18-32 and column 2 lines 43, wherein the server management includes a mux 22 to control the switch blade 14 for providing network switching of packets and routing for various protocol layers, thus column 5 lines 18-32 teaches a mux in the SERVER MGNT BLADE 10, 12 to control SMBUS/LAN as shown in figure 1). (Final Office Action at para. no. 2, pages 2-3).

Thus, the Examiner appeared to argue above that the MUX 22 disclosed in Wong corresponds to the LAN switch recited in the claims. MUX 22 is a multiplexer, not a LAN switch. A multiplexer is configured differently, and operates in a different manner than a LAN switch. There is also no teaching or suggestion in Wong that the MUX 22 could or

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should be replaced by a LAN switch. Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion in Wong that the MUX 22 has at least four ports.

Wong also discloses switch blades 14, which "provide network switching of packets and routing for various protocol layers (Wong at col. 2, lines 36-38). However, switch blades 14 are separate and distinct from the server management blades 10 and 12. There is no teaching or suggestion in Wong that the switch blades 10 and 12 could or should be incorporated into the server management blades 10 and 12.

Wong does not teach or suggest a server management card with a multiple-port LAN switch having at least four ports, the LAN switch coupled to a controller and configured to be coupled to a management connection of at least one of a plurality of removable cards, as recited in independent claim 14.

In view of the above, independent claim 14 is not taught or suggested by Wong. Appellants submit that independent claim 14 is not anticipated by Wong, and respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 15, 16, and 18, which further limit patentably distinct claim 14, are also believed to be allowable over the cited reference. Appellants submit that dependent claims 15, 16, and 18 are not anticipated by Wong, and respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claims 15, 16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

F. Rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wong

Dependent claim 19 recites "a plurality of serial ports for transmitting and receiving serial communications." Wong discloses that the server includes an RS232 port (Figure 1), but Wong does not teach or suggest that the server management blade 10 includes a plurality of serial ports.

Dependent claim 19, which further limits patentably distinct claim 14, and is further distinguishable over the cited reference, is believed to be allowable over the cited reference. Appellants submit that dependent claim 19 is not anticipated by Wong, and respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

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G. Rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wong

Dependent claim 20 recites "wherein the LAN switch is configured to communicate with an external management LAN." As addressed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 8, the Examiner appeared to argue that the SMBUS/LAN 25 is an external management network as recited in the claims. Appellants respectfully disagree. The elements shown in Figure 1, including the SMBUS/LAN 25, are part of a single server with hot swappable blades. (See, e.g., Wong at col. 2, lines 18-22). The SMBUS/LAN 25 is an internal bus of the server, not an external management network. Wong does not teach or suggest that multiplexer 22 could or should be coupled to an external management network.

Dependent claim 20, which further limits patentably distinct claim 14, and is further distinguishable over the cited reference, is believed to be allowable over the cited reference. Appellants submit that dependent claim 20 is not anticipated by Wong, and respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of claims 5, 11, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong in view of Bassman

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 11, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong in view of Bassman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,295,567 ("Bassman"). Appellants submit that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness of claims 5, 11, and 17.

Dependent claims 5, 11, and 17, are dependent on independent claims 1, 8, and 14, respectively. As addressed above, Wong does not teach or suggest the above-quoted limitations of independent claims 1, 8, and 14. Bassman also does not teach or suggest these limitations of independent claims 1, 8, and 14.

Dependent claims 5, 11, and 17 are also further distinguishable over the cited references. With respect to these claims, the Examiner acknowledged that "Wong does not expressly teach temperature sensor and controlling fan speed." (Final Office Action at para. no. 5, page 4). Bassman discloses an embedded controller 605 that controls the speed of each fan. (Bassman at col. 8, lines 42-43). However, Bassman includes no teaching or suggestion

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that the embedded controller 605, or any portion thereof, could or should be incorporated into a management card as recited in the claims.

The Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness of claims 5, 11, and 17, and Appellants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent claims 5, 11, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Appellants respectfully submit that the cited references neither anticipate nor render obvious claims of the pending Application. The pending claims distinguish over the cited references, and therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that the rejections must be withdrawn, and respectfully request the Examiner be reversed and claims 1-20 be allowed.

Any inquiry regarding this Response should be directed to either David Plettner at Telephone No. (408) 447-3013, Facsimile No. (408) 447-0854 or Jeff A. Holmen at Telephone No. (612) 573-0178, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being transmitted via telefacsimile to Examiner Tim T. Vo, Group Art Unit 2112, at Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on this 9th day of March, 2006.

By: Jeff A. Holmen

Name: Jeff A. Holmen

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

- 1.(Previously Amended) A server system comprising:
a plurality of printed circuit assemblies including a plurality of host processor cards;
a management card coupled to the plurality of printed circuit assemblies, the management card dedicated to monitoring and managing operation of the server system, including monitoring and managing on-line insertion and removal of the printed circuit assemblies; and
wherein the management card includes a LAN switch configured to be coupled to the plurality of host processor cards and an external management network.
- 2.(Previously Amended) The server system of claim 1, wherein the management card includes a management processor, and wherein the LAN switch is coupled to management connections of the plurality of host processor cards, and management connections of the management processor.
- 3.(Original) The server system of claim 1, and further comprising a backplane for connecting the plurality of printed circuit assemblies to the management card.
- 4.(Previously Presented) The server system of claim 3, wherein the plurality of host processor cards is configured to communicate status information to the management card via at least one I²C bus routed through the backplane.
- 5.(Original) The server system of claim 1, and further comprising:
at least one cooling fan;
at least one temperature sensor; and
the management card configured to adjust the speed of the at least one cooling fan based on temperature data provided by the at least one temperature sensor.
- 6.(Original) The server system of claim 1, wherein the management card further comprises:
a plurality of LEDs for providing server status information.

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7.(Original) The server system of claim 1, wherein the management card further comprises:

a plurality of serial ports for communicating with the management card.

8.(Previously Amended) A method of managing a server system comprising:

providing a plurality of host processor cards for running customer operating systems and applications;

providing a dedicated management card that does not run customer operating systems and applications, the dedicated management card coupled to the plurality of host processor cards via a LAN switch on the management card;

monitoring and managing operation of the plurality of host processor cards with the dedicated management card, including monitoring and managing hot swapping of the host processor cards; and

communicating with an external management network via the LAN switch.

9.(Original) The method of claim 8, and further comprising:

monitoring management LAN communications of the plurality of host processor cards with the management card.

10.(Original) The method of claim 8, and further comprising:

transmitting status information from the plurality of host processor cards to the management card via at least one I²C bus.

11.(Original) The method of claim 8, and further comprising:

monitoring the temperature of the server system with the management card; and

adjusting the speed of at least one cooling fan with the management card based on temperature data.

12.(Original) The method of claim 8, and further comprising:

providing status information on the management card via a plurality of LEDs.

Appeal Brief to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

Applicant: Thane M. Larson et al.

Serial No.: 09/924,163

Filed: August 7, 2001

Docket No.: 10012383-1

Title: DEDICATED SERVER MANAGEMENT CARD WITH HOT SWAP FUNCTIONALITY

13.(Original) The method of claim 8, and further comprising:

communicating with the management card via at least one of a plurality of serial ports on the management card.

14.(Previously Amended) A management-dedicated server management card for a server system having a plurality of removable cards, the server management card comprising:

a memory for storing server management software;

a controller coupled to the plurality of removable cards for monitoring and managing operation of the server system based on the server management software, the controller providing hot-swap functionality for the plurality of removable cards; and

a multiple-port LAN switch having at least four ports, the LAN switch coupled to the controller and configured to be coupled to a management connection of at least one of the plurality of removable cards.

15.(Previously Presented) The server management card of claim 14, wherein the LAN switch is coupled to the management connections of a plurality of the removable cards for monitoring management LAN communications.

16.(Original) The server management card of claim 14, and further comprising:

at least one I²C bus link coupled to the controller for receiving status information from the plurality of removable cards.

17.(Original) The server management card of claim 14, and further comprising:

an input for receiving server temperature information, the controller configured to adjust the speed of at least one server cooling fan based on received server temperature information.

18.(Original) The server management card of claim 14, and further comprising:

a plurality of LEDs for providing server status information.

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19.(Original) The server management card of claim 14, and further comprising:
a plurality of serial ports for transmitting and receiving serial communications.

20.(Previously Presented) The server management card of claim 14, wherein the LAN switch is configured to communicate with an external management LAN.

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EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

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RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.